

# STATE ARTS AGENCY GRANT MAKING AND FUNDING

Each of America's 50 states and six jurisdictions has a government agency that works to make the cultural, civic, economic and educational benefits of the arts available to all communities. Through services and grant making, state arts agencies (SAAs) increase citizen access to the arts and help each state to recognize, cultivate and promote its unique creative assets. State arts agencies are publicly guided entities that engage citizen volunteers as council members, grant-adjudication panelists and participants in agency planning and decision making.

## State Arts Agency Grant Making

State arts agencies provide a wide array of citizen services, including public information, partnership building, technical assistance, and research and planning. Among the most important of these services is grant making: more than 20,000 projects are funded in more than 4,400 communities each year. State arts agencies invest their funds through a variety of programs designed to foster:

- **educational success**, by investing in arts education opportunities for students. Forty-three percent of state arts agency grants are directed toward programs and organizations with significant arts education activities;
- **arts participation**, by supporting more than 6,100 performances, exhibitions and lifelong learning programs;
- **accessibility**, by investing more than \$70 million in programs that widen the availability of the arts, especially in rural areas and among underserved populations;
- **cultural infrastructure**, by investing in arts organizations, both established and emerging, through general operating support, professional development, stabilization funding and networking support. General operating support is one of the most flexible types of funding and accounts for more than one-third of state arts agency grant dollars;
- **innovation**, by supporting individual artists and the development of new creative works; and
- **artistic heritage**, by investing more than \$6 million in the preservation of cultural traditions through projects in the folk and traditional arts.

### Total State Arts Agency Grant Awards Fiscal Year 2015

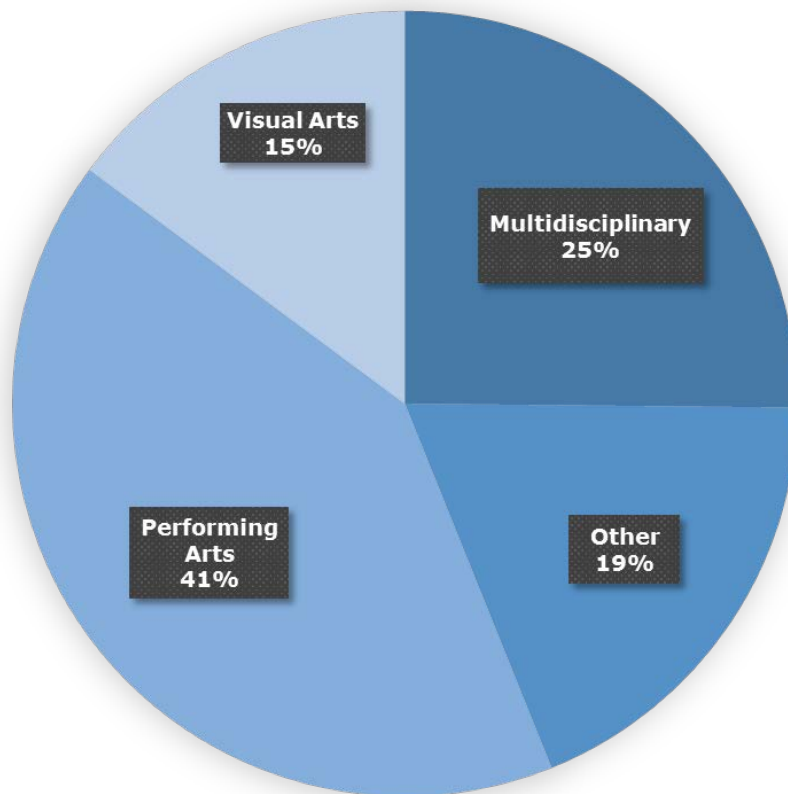
Number of Grants Awarded	20,436
Arts Education Grants	8,818
Operating Support Grants	5,658
Individual Artist Grants	2,035
Grants to Local Arts Agencies	1,333
Grant Dollars Awarded	\$257,035,640
Number of Communities Funded	4,434

State arts agency grant requirements encourage local investment in the arts. Applicants match—and usually exceed—the funds granted by the state with funds from local government, the private sector or earned-income activities. Although state arts agency grants represent a modest portion of overall funding for the arts, they convey unique and essential public benefits. State arts agency policies encourage civic engagement, catalyze collaboration within and across sectors, ensure equitable access to funding opportunities, and comprehensively address the long-term needs of each state and jurisdiction in America.

**State Arts Agency Awards by Discipline**  
Fiscal Year 2015

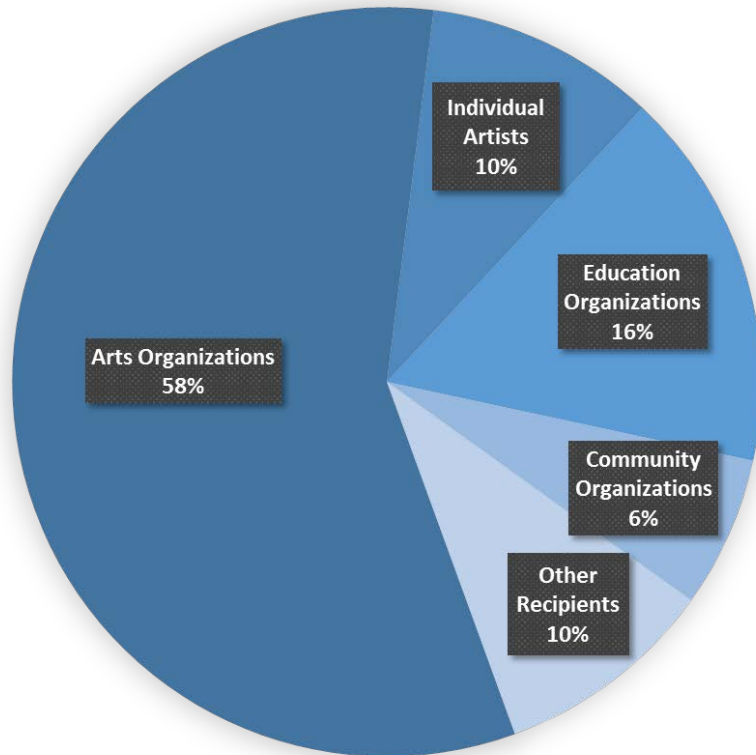
Discipline	Number of Grants	Grant Dollars
Crafts	355	\$ 2,496,371
Dance	1,190	\$ 13,101,448
Design Arts	164	\$ 1,622,417
Folklife/Traditional Arts	993	\$ 6,666,114
Humanities	263	\$ 5,950,880
Interdisciplinary	423	\$ 4,900,890
Literature	879	\$ 5,993,438
Media Arts	636	\$ 9,149,994
Multidisciplinary	5,141	\$ 90,817,295
Music	4,004	\$ 38,184,624
Opera/Musical Theatre	503	\$ 6,657,596
Photography	164	\$ 983,555
Theatre	2,734	\$ 32,822,616
Visual Arts	2,350	\$ 31,139,677
Non-Arts/Non-Humanities	637	\$ 6,548,725

**State Arts Agency Awards by Discipline Category**  
Fiscal Year 2015



Other includes crafts, folklife/traditional arts, humanities, interdisciplinary, literature and non-arts/non-humanities.

### State Arts Agency Awards by Institution Type Fiscal Year 2015



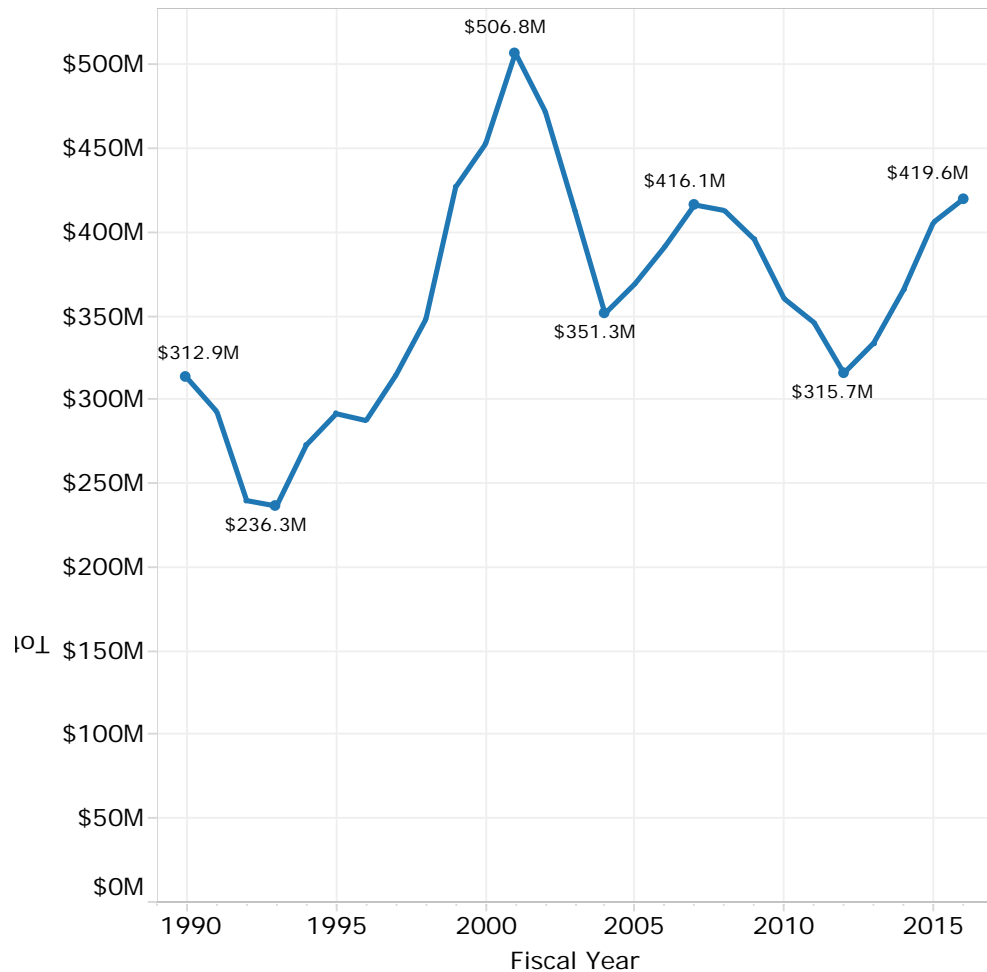
Other Recipients includes groups such as parks and recreation, libraries, media groups, and local government entities.

### State Arts Agency Funding

State arts agency grant-making activities are dependent on agency revenues. Several funding sources contribute to SAA revenue, with the largest being state funds. States allocate these funds through three common mechanisms: legislative appropriations to SAAs, line items passing through SAA budgets and transfers to SAAs from other state funds. Combined, these mechanisms accounted for 89.4% of total state arts agency revenue in fiscal year 2016. Other funding for SAAs comes from the National Endowment for the Arts; foundation, corporate and individual support; and other federal grants. Total state arts agency revenue amounted to \$419.6 million in FY2016, a 3% increase from the \$405.7 million secured in FY2015.

State budgets on the whole have entered a period of slow but stable growth following the Great Recession of 2007-2009. However, long-term issues such as pensions, aging infrastructure, and increasing health care expenditures will loom large over states for the foreseeable future.

**Total State Arts Agency Revenue**  
Fiscal Years 1990-2016



**National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA)**

NASAA is the nonpartisan membership organization that unites, represents and serves the nation's state and jurisdictional arts agencies. Its mission is to strengthen state arts agencies by representing their individual and collective interests, empowering their work through knowledge, and advancing the arts as an essential public benefit. NASAA serves as a clearinghouse for data and research about public funding and the arts, facilitating the transfer of ideas for members and partners.

This report draws on data from NASAA's biannual legislative appropriations surveys and from state arts agencies' Final Descriptive Reports (FDRs) of grant-making activity submitted annually to the National Endowment for the Arts and NASAA. Grant figures reported here represent data from fiscal year 2015 or the most recent available. For more information on the work of state arts agencies, call 202-347-6352, e-mail [nasaa@nasaa-arts.org](mailto:nasaa@nasaa-arts.org) or visit [www.nasaa-arts.org](http://www.nasaa-arts.org).

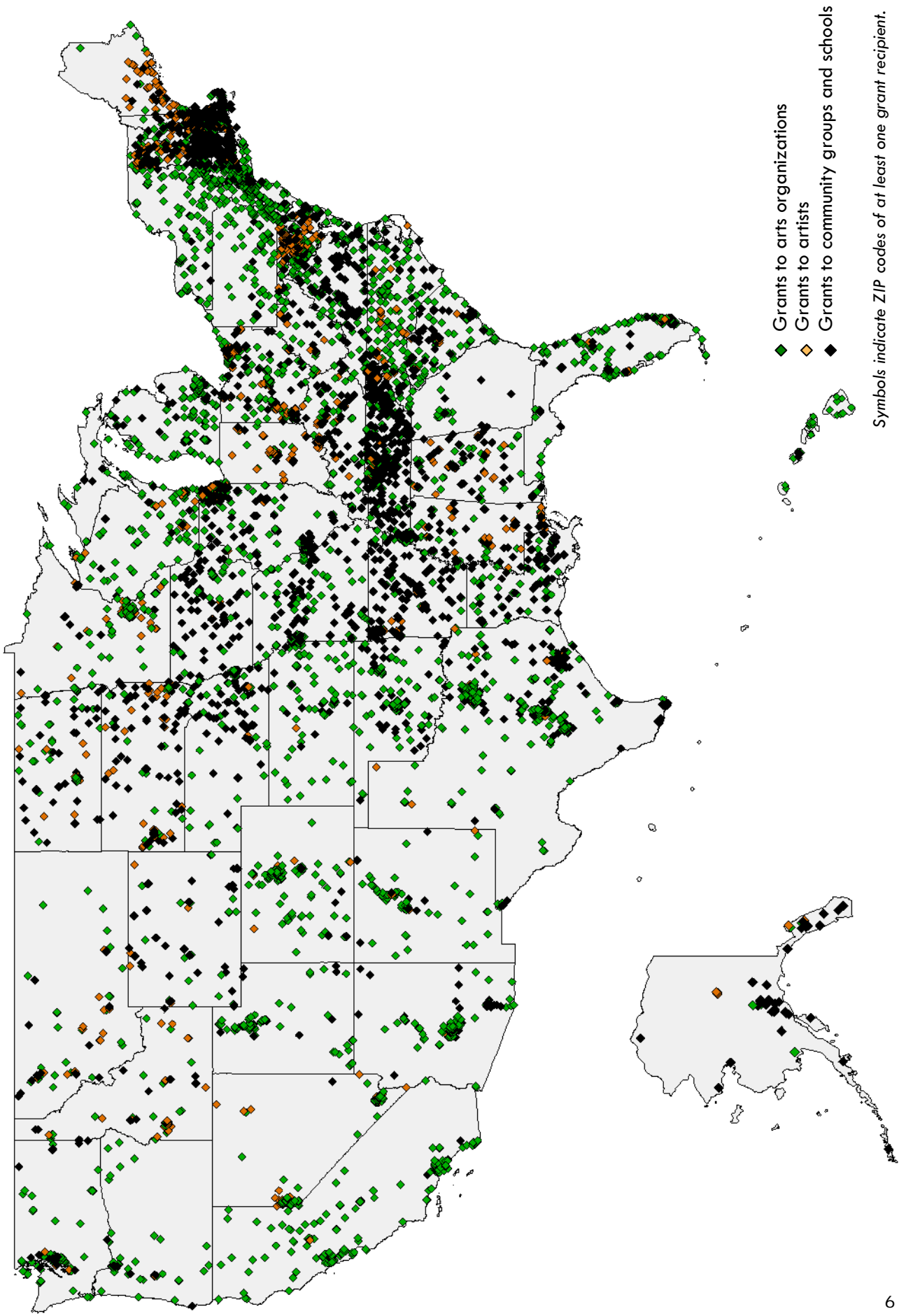
NASAA's collection of grant-making statistics is supported in part through a cooperative agreement with the National Endowment for the Arts.

**State Arts Agency Grant Making  
Fiscal Year 2015**

State or Jurisdiction	Total Grants Awarded		Communities Funded	Grantees Funded
	Number	Dollars	Number	Number
Alabama	302	\$1,586,351	73	207
Alaska	210	982,040	48	186
Arizona	343	2,145,023	53	331
Arkansas	403	1,526,462	108	299
California	352	4,094,753	93	284
Colorado	245	2,468,694	74	241
Connecticut	474	3,716,375	110	339
Delaware	169	3,221,610	29	141
Florida	394	25,388,937	103	384
Georgia	55	658,615	23	49
Hawaii	64	555,150	24	58
Idaho	170	566,136	50	146
Illinois	904	7,215,537	146	734
Indiana	137	2,808,233	31	126
Iowa	214	1,109,528	87	167
Kansas	240	980,656	74	193
Kentucky	209	1,654,434	75	186
Louisiana	289	1,532,897	85	257
Maine	106	479,577	54	91
Maryland	575	14,063,388	125	531
Massachusetts	1,821	11,892,954	445	1,646
Michigan	346	6,872,215	112	328
Minnesota	589	33,586,858	83	470
Mississippi	241	1,660,128	74	209
Missouri	560	6,264,696	131	470
Montana	197	1,228,467	45	161
Nebraska	388	2,031,030	78	295
Nevada	275	1,009,786	30	217
New Hampshire	113	663,454	60	98
New Jersey	168	13,445,469	75	145
New Mexico	177	1,039,359	40	175
New York	1,897	36,295,571	215	1,240
North Carolina	371	6,509,881	123	285
North Dakota	269	959,327	64	207
Ohio	622	10,302,047	137	521
Oklahoma	492	3,333,976	90	261
Oregon	169	1,869,400	32	129
Pennsylvania	328	8,969,563	80	290
Rhode Island	300	1,527,600	39	255
South Carolina	277	1,581,542	76	242
South Dakota	481	1,269,626	100	288
Tennessee	893	4,933,651	202	716
Texas	1,305	5,517,233	171	682
Utah	226	2,575,555	70	218
Vermont	187	893,581	76	171
Virginia	683	3,949,054	178	529
Washington	149	3,270,182	60	139
West Virginia	139	1,733,250	46	86
Wisconsin	215	1,106,198	83	202
Wyoming	282	1,018,989	44	206
American Samoa	8	175,000	1	4
District of Columbia	21	772,267	1	11
Guam	28	286,331	10	28
Northern Marianas	120	133,332	3	111
Puerto Rico	124	1,209,737	32	108
Virgin Islands	120	393,935	8	117

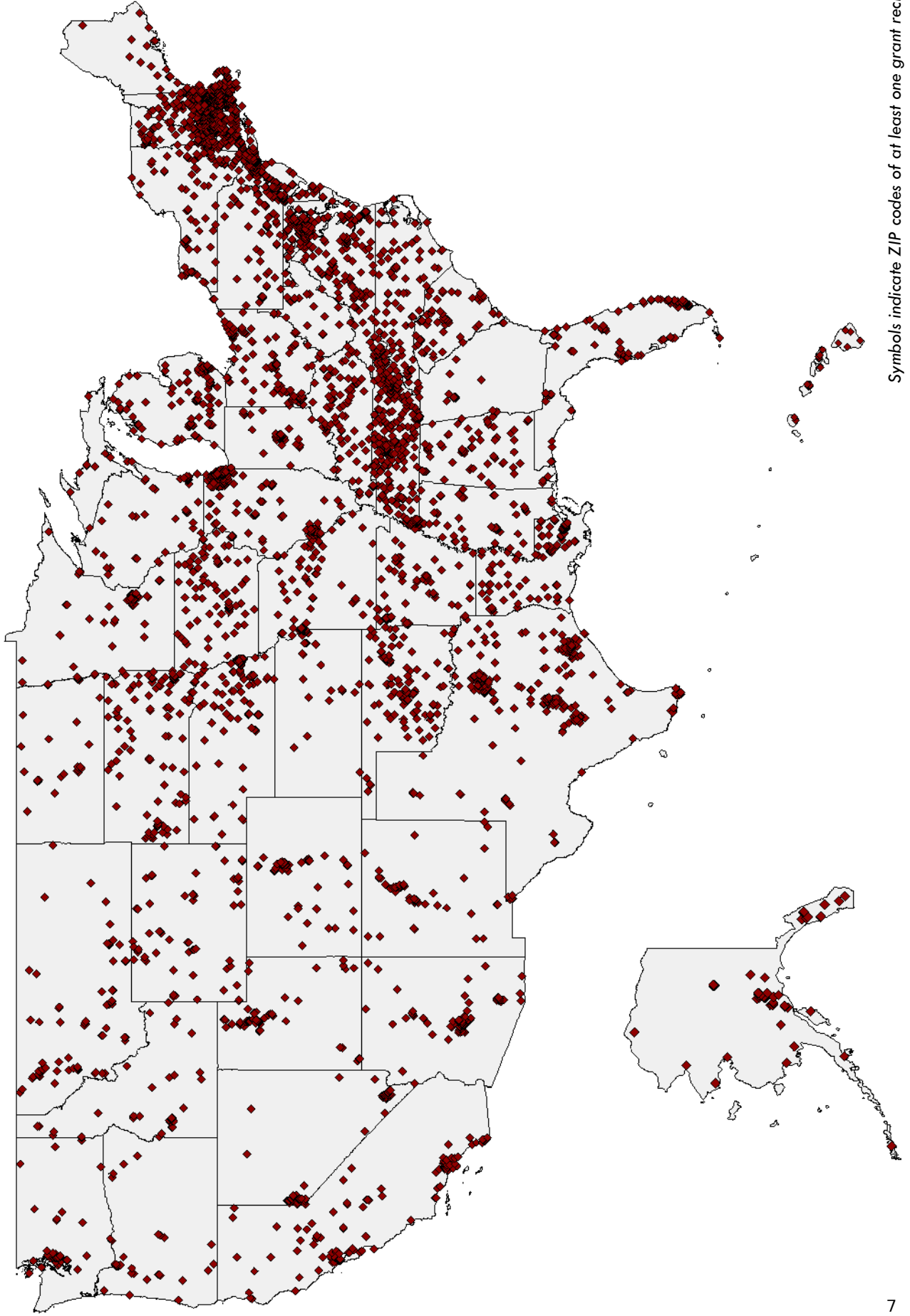
Figures reported here represent data from fiscal year 2015, or the most recent available. Communities funded are measured by the number of unique municipalities receiving awards. Statistics do not reflect non-grant agency programs, which in some instances make up a substantial portion of agency activities.

**State Arts Agency Grant Awards by Recipient Type**  
Fiscal Year 2015



**State Arts Agency Arts Education Awards**

Fiscal Year 2015



*Symbols indicate ZIP codes of at least one grant recipient.*